

But alas, in order to make a spirit that could make decisions God had, of course, to make it possible that that spirit might choose not to follow Him. Not to follow His loving directions, but to turn against Him. So man fell into sin, and we deserve nothing good at God's hands.

What have you that you did not receive? How wonderful that we have received God's free gift. God gave His Son. Christ bore our sin on the cross. The Holy Spirit brought each of us into relationship with someone who would tell us of the marvellous gift of God. The Holy Spirit applies redemption to our hearts. The Holy Spirit brought us into salvation. How wonderful what God has given us, what we have received.

Let us think particularly this morning of what else God has given us. God has given us a spirit, but he has given that spirit a wonderful instrument., with which to have an effect upon the world in which we live. I think of the body as like an automobile. With an automobile you can go much further than you possibly could on your own two feet. With the automobile you can do many things. The automobile becomes an expression of your personality. But the automobile wears out. It is discarded.

Some of us have cars that will run wonderfully through the years and others have some that will break down very quickly. There's great variety in them. There is variety in the bodies God has given us. He has lent us a body. It is a marvellous gift. There is nothing man has ever created that begins to compare with the wonders of the human body. Yet it's a machine, made to last a certain length of time, and then it's discarded. Whether that machine lasts 5 years or 10 years, 50 years, or 100 years--in the light of eternity it is a very small matter.

I remember when I was in college the question being raised: How can there be a resurrection? Suppose a man dies at sea. His body is thrown into the ocean. Several fish eat his body. Then these fish are caught and they are eaten by different people! How will all these atoms ever get together again? to have a resurrection! Well, the answer that was given, the statement was made that the human body is completely changed in the course of 7 years. I think that's an average statement.

There are parts of our bodies that are completely replaced every few minutes. I believe there are structural parts that may take much more than 7 years to be completely used away. But I doubt that there is a single cell in my body that was there 50 years ago. It is not a matter of particular chemical elements, particular cells. But it is an organism God has given us, a marvellous organism but an organism that is limited, an organism that is bound to wear out, but our spirit endures for eternity.

So God has given us this wonderful mechanism, and I think that in connection with that in answer to this question, What do you have you have not received? We can think of two elements. The first of these I would call the genes. God has created your spirit and he has placed your spirit in a situation where He desires it to be.